



One Hundred Twelfth Congress  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20515

April 11th, 2011

Assistant Commissioner Tom Winkowski  
Office of Field Operations  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Suite 2.4A  
Washington, DC 20229

Dear Assistant Commissioner Winkowski:

I want to express my appreciation for your attendance at our most recent hearing and wanted to follow up on one of the items that Stan Korosec, Vice President, Operations, Blue Water Bridge Canada, mentioned after the conclusion of the hearing. Mr. Korosec said that there is a current proposal to maximize capacity at the Blue Water Bridge as an interim solution until the Blue Water Bridge Plaza can be constructed.

This plan includes the installation of four staggered booths, and three stacked booths to increase the throughput of cars through the existing infrastructure footprint. According to a Customs and Border Protection (CBP) presentation produced last fall this proposal would significantly reduce the wait times for traffic crossing the Blue Water Bridge, even during the peak summer months. My understanding is that this proposal has been forwarded to CBP Headquarters, but that no decision on implementation has been made.

Officials at the Blue Water Bridge have agreed to share the financial burden of this interim solution, and dedicate significant private resources to this project that will alleviate traffic congestion until such time as the plaza can be completed. In fact, the seven booths required for the staggered/stacked lanes are currently in storage and could be installed in a relatively short amount of time if they meet CBP standards.

As you know, the Blue Water Bridge is critical for the transiting of people and commerce in my district and throughout the region. As I mentioned during the hearing, CBP must put "skin in the game," and commit to funding the \$107 million dollar federal portion of the reduced 16 acre plaza. The citizens of Port Huron have spent over 10 years working with CBP to make this plaza a reality, and it is well past time for CBP to ensure this project is completed in a timely manner.

In the interim, I believe that CBP should quickly dedicate the required resources to match the Blue Water Bridge's generous offer so that the staggered and stacked lanes can be constructed in time for the busy summer traffic season.

I look forward to working with you to secure our nation's ports of entry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Candice S. Miller". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Candice" being more prominent than the last name "Miller".

Candice S. Miller

Chairman

Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security